

2 VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 1777.

The house then proceeded to the choice of a speaker, and the honourable Thomas Sprigg Wootton, Esq; was elected by ballot.

The house appointed Mr. Gabriel Duvall clerk. ORDERED, That he qualify himself as such, by taking the oath of fidelity to the state, subscribing a declaration of his belief in the christian religion, and by taking an oath, that he will honestly, faithfully, and diligently discharge the office of clerk to the house of delegates of Maryland, and that he will not disclose or reveal the secrets thereof.

Mr. Allen Quynn was appointed serjeant at arms, and Mr. Robert Reynolds door-keeper. ORDERED, That they qualify themselves as such, by taking the several oaths required.

A certificate of the clerk's qualification was produced and filed.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

T H U R S D A Y, February 6, 1777.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Magruder. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Upton Sheredine, a delegate returned for Frederick county, appeared in the house, and after having qualified agreeable to the constitution and form of government, in the presence of Mr. Speaker and the other members, he took his seat.

Certificates of the qualification of the serjeant at arms and door-keeper were produced and filed.

On motion, RESOLVED, That for the dispatch of public business, this house will sit, during this session, from nine o'clock in the morning till one in the afternoon, and from three till five.

On motion, That a committee of elections and privileges be appointed to inspect and examine the returns of elections, and report whether they have been made agreeable to the mode prescribed by the constitution and form of government, and that be a committee for that purpose? The previous question was called for and put, Whether the above question be now put? Carried in the negative.

ORDERED, That the following rules be observed this session.

I. That no member of the house use any reviling speeches, or name any member by his proper name, but shall use some other distinction, as *the gentleman who spoke last*, or the like.

II. That none shall deliver his opinion or speak to any debate, unless he shall stand up in his place and reverently direct his speech to the speaker.

III. That no member speak above once on any debate, without licence of the house declared by the speaker, and if two persons or more shall rise up together, the speaker shall appoint who shall speak first, and no member shall interrupt any other, until the gentleman speaking hath ended.

IV. That no person come into the house while the same is sitting, with sword or other weapon, upon penalty of such fine as shall be imposed on him by the speaker, not exceeding twenty shillings.

V. That if any member be absent at the hours appointed, the speaker and twenty of the members having met, according to the order for sitting, he shall be fined according to the discretion of the speaker, not exceeding five shillings for any offence, unless upon such excuse as the speaker shall admit.

VI. All misdemeanors which shall happen in the house shall be censured or fined in the house.

VII. That if any member of the house depart without leave of the house, he shall forfeit all his preceding allowance due to him for his attendance this session.

VIII. That every bill proposed to the house shall be read two several days before it is sent to the senate, and once after, before it be ingrossed, and between every reading one day shall be intermitted; and that, in that time, the bill shall be laid on the table for the perusal of all the members, unless on very urgent occasions, Mr. Speaker, with the consent of the house, shall dispence therewith, and then the bill being read twice at one sitting, shall be as sufficient as if read several days, when so entered in the clerk's journal.

IX. That no person who has refused to sign the association (unless from religious principles) be permitted to come within the doors of this house during the session.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock.

P O S T M E R I D I E M.

The house met. Mr. Mitchell has leave of absence. Mr. Thomas Semmes, a delegate returned for Charles county, Mr. Walter Bowie, a delegate returned for Prince-George's county, and Mr. John Hatton Read, a delegate returned for Saint Mary's county, appeared in the house, and after having qualified agreeable to the constitution and form of government, in the presence of Mr. Speaker and the other members, they took their seats.

On motion, RESOLVED, That the intercourse between the senate and delegates of assembly of this state, as to the mode of conducting business during this session, be the same as heretofore used between the upper and lower houses of assembly.